



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
Washington, D.C. 20537



FEB 27 1981

Executive Registry  
81-3611

Admiral B. R. Inman, USN  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

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D/NFAC  
Comment pls

Dear Admiral Inman:

On several occasions in the past two years, DEA has requested assistance from the DCI in meeting our consumers' narcotics intelligence requirements. When the CIA decided to reduce the priority of narcotics intelligence, including the resources targeted on operational and tactical narcotics activity, DEA expressed the position that resources should be focused on narcotics related political and economic intelligence targets and strategic intelligence, including illicit crop estimates. Intelligence resources were shifted to non-narcotics programs. The purpose of this letter is to request reconsideration of the priority assigned to the collection of economic, political, and strategic narcotics intelligence.

DEA's international narcotics intelligence program is responsible for the collection, analysis and reporting on cultivation, production, trafficking and movement of illicit drugs imported into the United States, including the "reverse" flow of funds associated with the drug traffic.

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To ensure that we met the needs of our narcotics intelligence consumers, the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee was established. The CIA and NSA sit as observers on this committee. This committee prepares coordinated narcotics intelligence requirements and estimates. A copy of their most recent estimate is enclosed for your information.

Our forecast for 1981 is that the American public will spend close to \$100 billion for illicit drugs at the retail level. Almost all of

DOJ Review Completed.

NSA review completed

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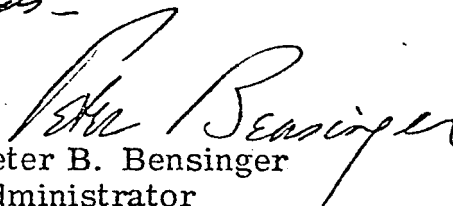
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these drugs are produced in foreign countries. We strongly believe that the International Narcotics Program needs a higher priority in the U. S. Government. Fundamental to development and prioritization of foreign narcotics control programs is foreign intelligence.

While we welcomed one aspect of the CIA decision on narcotics resources, namely the transfer of specific overseas operational and tactical collection to DEA, we strongly felt that CIA resources should have been targeted on the narcotics related political and economic aspects of the countries involved in the production of drugs. We have been disappointed by previous DCI responses to our requests for narcotics intelligence support--responses that stated that narcotics did not have a high enough priority in the foreign intelligence community to warrant additional resources. We would like to request that our narcotics intelligence collection requirements--reflecting a real intelligence community need--be reassessed with a goal of providing increased collection to support our analysis and reporting responsibilities. Specifically, we need more resources of the CIA and NSA devoted to the collection of specific narcotics intelligence requirements. While significant progress has been made on the legal issues regarding support from NSA, we were recently informed that the NNICC requirements forwarded twice in the last two years to both the DCI and NSA have yet to be validated by the DCI committee process.

Drugs are a major threat to our society. Increasingly we see linkage of drugs with violence and at times specifically with terrorist organizations and illegal arms shipments. Foreign intelligence is a major ingredient to the development and support of our international narcotics program. I recognize that you and Director Casey have a broad spectrum of responsibilities. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you again to discuss our need for increased support.

Sincerely,

*Best Regards -*  
Peter B. Bensinger  
Administrator

Enclosure

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EO 12958 Schedule	XDS:RBS
<i>Peter B. Bensinger</i>	
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Extended by:	Peter B. Bensinger
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